



Fancy Writer by Frank Roberts
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FANCY WRITER

(Copyright Feb., 1983)

by

FRANK ROBERTS

FANCY WRITER is a unique program which allows special fonts in assorted sizes to be printed on a dot matrix printer. It is not a screen dump or character set generator, but a data based font driver which merges with the calling program.

This version of FANCY WRITER is designed for use with the *Atari 400/800 computer and the *Prowriter, C.Itch Model 8510A, NEC and Epson/Graftrax dot printers. It requires 48K RAM and one disk drive.

FANCY WRITER will print 5 different font styles in 4 sizes on the Prowriter and NEC, and 2 sizes on the Epson with Graftrax.

The purchase of this program from an authorized dealer permits the purchaser to make copies for his or her own use as backup only. No authorization is granted or implied for re-sale or re-distribution of this product in any form.

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*Prowriter is a trademark of C.Itch&Co.,Ltd.

*NEC is a trademark of Nec Home Electronics, INC.

*Epson is a trademark of Epson America, Inc.

BEFORE USING THIS PROGRAM

MAKE A BACKUP COPY OF THE ORIGINAL FANCY WRITER

1. Boot in a disk containing DOS 2. When READY appears on the screen, type DOS and press RETURN
2. When the DOS menu appears, remove your disk and insert FANCY WRITER into the drive.
3. Choose option J from the DOS menu and press RETURN
4. Follow the prompts as they appear until copying is completed.
5. Remove FANCY WRITER and PLACE IN A SAFE PLACE.

You now have a working copy of FANCY WRITER. You may store text files on your working copy but, do not use the original for text file storage; the original is write protected and any attempt to write to it will cause program malfunction and may damage the files.

NOTE: It is advisable to store text files on a separate disk, be sure to use a properly formatted disk containing DOS 2.

IN THE BEGINNING....

1. Turn off your computer. Turn on your disk drive and wait until the top busy light goes out. Be sure the BASIC Cartridge is in the computer. Be sure to turn on your printer and 850 interface.

2. Insert your working copy (not the original !) into drive number 1.

3. Turn your computer on. FANCY WRITER will self load. When you see the first menu appear on the screen you will be ready to do fancy writing on your printer --either directly from the keyboard (menu option #3) or from text files which you may store on disk. FANCY WRITER will also print from any ASCII data file stored on disk by most word processors, providing the texts do not contain special control codes peculiar to those kind of programs.

NOTE : THE BREAK KEY HAS BEEN DISABLED in order to protect inadvertant program crash. The break key will not stop the program. Exit the program via menu selection only.

CAUTION : DO NOT PRESS RESET...unless you want to reboot the disk. Pressing RESET while filing text to a disk can damage the disk and/or the files stored there.

ONE MORE NOTE: It is not necessary to press RETURN after making selections from the menus in this program. However, it is necessary to press return FOLLOWING DATA TEXT ENTRY OR FILE NAME ENTRIES.

NOW LET'S GET FANCY !

After booting your working copy of FANCY WRITER, the following menu will appear on the screen:

- 1 NEC/PROWRITER
- 2 EPSON GRAFTRAX

If your printer is a NEC or Prowriter, press "1". If you are using an Epson, press "2". It is not necessary to press return. The next menu to appear on the screen will offer the following options:

- 1 PRINT FROM DISK
- 2 PUT TEXT ON DISK
- 3 KEYBOARD ENTRIES
- 4 SEE DIRECTORY
- 0 EXIT PROGRAM

Remember, it is not necessary (or advisable) to press return after making a selection from a menu. To print fancy stuff directly from the keyboard, press the number "3" on the computer keyboard. You will see the following menu:

- 1 CURSIVE
- 2 OLD ENGLISH
- 3 FUTURA
- 4 COUNTDOWN
- 5 BABYTEETH
- 0 START OVER

This menu will select the proper font from a disk file and place it into memory. Until and unless a selection is made from this menu, no fancy writing can be done ! AT THIS TIME DO NOT MAKE A SELECTION. Instead, press the ESCape key.

One of the following menus will appear on your screen:

(If you have a Nec or Prowriter)

- 1 LARGE
- 2 MEDIUM
- 3 SMALL
- 4 TEENY WEENY
- 0 START OVER

(If you are using an Epson)

- 1 LARGE
- 2 SMALL
- 0 START OVER

Pressing the ESC Key instead of a selection number is a handy way of paging through the menus in the FANCY WRITER program. You may want to do this, for example, when you have selected a size or font and then changed your mind and wish to make another selection without re-booting the disk.

Try pressing ESC again to page through all the menus. When you have returned to the following menu, press the number 2 Key to load in the Old English font:

- 1 CURSIVE
- 2 OLD ENGLISH
- 3 FUTURA
- 4 COUNTDOWN
- 5 BABYTEETH
- 0 START OVER

You will need to wait until the font data is completely loaded into memory from the disk. When this has been accomplished, if you have a NEC or Prowriter, the screen will appear as follows:

- 1 LARGE
- 2 MEDIUM
- 3 SMALL
- 4 TEENY WEENY
- 0 START OVER

Or, if you are using an Epson:

- 1 LARGE
- 2 SMALL
- 0 START OVER

Select one of the sizes by pressing the appropriate number key. Because you have previously elected to print directly from the Keyboard, the following screen will appear:

PRESS ANY KEY
WHEN PRINTER READY

Press any Key and the screen will change once more. You may now type whatever you wish; prose, poetry, nasty notes, Shakespeare, et.al. DO NOT, however, do not type past the buzzer near the end of the third line of text before pressing RETURN. When you press RETURN, the line you have typed will be processed and sent to the printer in the font and size you have selected. There will be a delay in printing the line, depending on the length of the text you have entered. Be patient. Wait for the cursor to appear before entering new text. This is necessary to avoid weird things happening (the computer needs the time to juggle font data into special graphics characters for the printer). You may continue to enter text, pressing RETURN at the end of each phrase or sentence, etc., or at the buzzer near the end of every third line --whichever is the shorter.

When you have typed all that you want to type, press the ESCape Key to exit processing. The last menu will then appear as follows:

- 1 ANOTHER COPY
- 2 ANOTHER FILE
- 3 ANOTHER FONT
- 4 ANOTHER SIZE
- 5 START OVER
- 0 EXIT PROGRAM

This menu allows you to stay within the program and make other selections without re-booting the disk. Try selecting #3 or #4 to change the font or size. Then repeat the previous instructions and you will have a good idea of how versatile FANCY WRITER is.

Keyboard entry is the most direct and immediate option in this program. If you want to file long paragraphs, poems or other kinds of text, you will want to select #1 or #2 from the first or main menu. Details on these procedures are in the following sections.

STORING YOUR TEXT ON DISK

Although you may store your text on your working copy, it is advisable to use a separate disk, properly formatted and containing DOS.

CAUTION: The original copy of FANCY WRITER is write-protected. Tampering with the disk and/or attempting to write to the original disk may cause damage to the disk and/or the FANCY WRITER programs and data files.

From the main menu,

- 1 PRINT FROM DISK
- 2 PUT TEXT ON DISK
- 3 KEYBOARD ENTRIES
- 4 SEE DIRECTORY
- 0 EXIT PROGRAM

type the number 2 key on the computer keyboard. You will hear the disk drive engage. It is loading the FILER program into memory from the disk. When it is ready for your input, you will see the following on the screen:

PLACE DATA DISK
IN DRIVE AND PRESS
[RETURN]

PRESS ESC TO QUIT

If you press the ESC key now the screen will show:

PLACE FANCY WRITER
IN DRIVE AND PRESS
[RETURN]

PRESS ESC TO START OVER

If you now press RETURN without having Fancy Writer in the drive the program will "crash" and you will need to re-load the disk as described in a previous section of this manual. At this time, with your DATA DISK in drive, press ESC and the screen will show:

PLACE DATA DISK
IN DRIVE AND PRESS
[RETURN]

PRESS ESC TO QUIT

NOW press RETURN. The screen will turn dark blue and will read:

Type in your text
Press ESCape key when done with typing
Do not go past 3rd line without RET

Actually, the above is only a reminder. You may type as many characters as you wish on the screen without pressing RETURN, BUT, Fancy Writer is optimally designed for lines to be no longer than 120 characters, including spaces. Therefor, it is advisable to restrict your text lines accordingly by pressing the RETURN key before completing every third line of text. Actually, if you plan to use Fancy Writing in Large sizes, you should press RETURN before completing every second line of text.

When you have finished typing what you want to file, press the ESC key. The screen will then show the following menu:

1 FILE TEXT ON DISK
2 EDIT
3 RETURN TO TEXT
4 LOAD FILE FM DISK
0 START ALL OVER

CAUTION: if you select "0" all previously typed text and file data in memory will be lost. STARTING ALL OVER means just that ! The program will return you to the first screen and all buffers and program parameters will be re-initialized (heavy computer talk for "think twice before typing "0" from this menu).

If you select "1" (FILE TEXT ON DISK

If you select "1", you will then see:

TYPE IN A TITLE FOR
YOUR TEXT USE NO
MORE THAN 8 LETTERS

Note the print at the bottom of the screen, "D:?". This prompt is waiting for your input. Type a name for your text file. You do not have to type "D:", as it will automatically be attached for you. Just be sure your title begins with an upper case letter. Do not begin a title with any letter other than A through Z. For example,

TEST2 will work.

TEST.222 will work.

2TEST WILL NOT WORK

When you have typed your title, press RETURN. If all goes well, your next screen will be:

STANDBY
PUTTING
(filename)
ON THE DISK

When this has been done you will see:

PLACE FANCY WRITER
IN DRIVE AND PRESS
RETURN

If you want to type and file another text, press ESC and the program will start you over again. If you are finished with this program, press return (with Fancy Writer in the drive) and the drive will load the Fancy Writer which you can then use to do neat stuff with the file you have just created.

If all does not go well

If you have typed an illegal or improper file name or a name which is currently already on the Data Disk, the screen will turn dark green and the contents of the disk will be displayed. At the bottom you will see:

(filename) ALREADY EXISTS
DO YOU WANT TO OVERWRITE IT (Y/N)

If you type "N" the program will return you to the section necessary to re-enter a new title.

If you type "Y", the program will file your text over the old one (the old one will be replaced). Be sure you want this. Overwritten files cannot be restored !

If you select "2" EDIT

If you want to correct any of your text, this section will allow you to do so--in a limited way. This editing part of the Fancy Writer program is sort of a mini word processor. It will not do tricky editing such as search, replace, format, etc. It will work for you, however, if you accept its limitations.

After typing "2" the screen will turn dark brown with gold letters. At the top you will see:

EDIT MODE

To advance text, press the SPACEBAR
Press RET to edit last line shown
When finished, press ESC Key

The first line of your text (up to the first carriage return) will be displayed. Note the big circle at the end of the line. This dot indicates a RETURN character. In order to edit a line of your text you must press RETURN following the line to be edited. When you press RETURN, the cursor will jump to the next screen line and display a "?". You must type the line exactly as you want it to be --the entire line--as anything you type will replace the last line shown before pressing the RET. When you have typed in the corrected line, press RETURN again and the text will continue to display the next line of text. Pressing the spacebar will allow you to page through your text, line by line, until the end of your last entry. When you come to the end of your text the spacebar will no longer have an effect on the screen display. At this point, the only way to leave the editor is by pressing the ESC Key (you may leave the editor anytime by pressing ESC, even if you have not reached the end of your text).

After pressing the ESCape key, you will be returned to the menu,

- 1 FILE TEXT ON DISK
- 2 EDIT
- 3 RETURN TO TEXT
- 4 LOAD FILE FM DISK
- 0 START OVER

If you select "3"

If you type "3" you will see a blue screen with text entry format. Your text will be displayed, line by line --without big dots-- and the cursor will come to rest at the end of your text. You may, at this time, continue to enter text until pressing the ESC key.

If you select "4"

If you type "4" you will see the following:

TYPE IN A TITLE FOR
YOUR TEXT USE NO
MORE THAN 8 LETTERS

Again, as with filing a text, type the name of the file you wish to load. Remember, you do not have to precede the file name with "D:", as the Fancy Filer will automatically attach it for you. If the file you request is not on the disk, the disk directory will be displayed with the message, "[filename] NOT ON DISK - PRESS ANY KEY". When you press any key, the Filer will return you to the beginning so you may start again. If the file you request is on the disk you will see:

STANDBY
LOADING
[filename]
FROM THE DISK

After the file is loaded it will be displayed in the blue text mode screen. You may at this time add to the file, or by pressing ESC and entering the EDIT mode, change any part of the file.

PRINTING FROM THE DISK

From the main menu select item 1 PRINT FROM DISK by typing a "1" from the computer Keyboard (remember, do not press RETURN).

Select a font from the font menu.

Select a size from the size menu.

You will now have on your screen

ENTER FILE NAME

Type the following:

TEST1 (then press RETURN)

When the following screen appears,

PRESS ANY KEY
WHEN PRINTER READY

press any key and the contents of the text file TEST1 will be printed on your printer. BE SURE THAT THE FILE YOU HAVE CHOSEN IS ON THE CURRENT DISK; if you have stored text on a separate Data Disk, you should at this time place that disk in the drive before starting this process. Whenever you want to print a file which you have previously put on the disk, just enter the appropriate title when prompted by the program. Do not forget to press RETURN following your title entry --otherwise you may sit staring at your screen for a long, long time. If you enter an incorrect or illegal title (file name), or the title you ask for is not stored on the disk, you will get the following on your screen:

FILE NOT FOUND

1 TRY ANOTHER NAME
2 START ALL OVER
3 SEE DIRECTORY

Choosing #1 will allow you to try a different title without exiting the program. #2 will let you give up and run the program again from the main menu. And, #3 will let you see what is stored on the disk.

You may also see the data disk directory at any time by paging to the main menu with ESCape key and selecting that option.

A FINAL NOTE

I hope you enjoy using FANCY WRITER as much I have enjoyed creating it. It is a fun program which will extend the limits of your computer equipment and help make you the envy of all your friends and neighbors. When used in accordance with these instructions it will work nicely. Attempting to modify it or apply it to some other task will only foul it up. I, of course, assume no responsibility for such tribulations.

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